

Appl. No. : 10/659,698
Filed : September 11, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-14, 18, and 20-22 without prejudice and amend Claims 15-17, 19, and 23-25 as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended)The bacteriophage according to claim [[14]] 17, wherein said bacteriophage has at least a 15% longer half-life than a corresponding wild-type phage.
16. (Currently amended)The bacteriophage according to claim [[14]] 17, wherein said phage is specific for bacterial families selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Klebsiella, Shigella, Salmonella, Serratia, Yersinia, Enterobacter, Enterococci, Haemophilus, Mycobacteria, Neisseria, Pseudomonas, Staphylococci, Streptococci and Vibrio.
17. (Currently amended) The bacteriophage according to claim 14 A physico-chemically altered bacteriophage which is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system, wherein said bacteriophage is PEGylated.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18 A method of obtaining a physico-chemically altered bacteriophage that is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system against foreign bodies, comprising the steps of:

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(a) protecting tail proteins on a bacteriophage, and

(b) then binding a polymer to any unprotected proteins on said bacteriophage,

wherein said polymer is polyethylene glycol (PEG).

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising a physico-chemically altered bacteriophage which is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said physico-chemically altered bacteriophage is PEGylated.

24. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~[[22]]~~ 23, wherein said composition is an aerosol formulation for administration to an animal's lungs.

25. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~[[22]]~~ 23, wherein said bacteriophage is in lyophilized form.